

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph at line 3 of page 1:

This application is a continuation of pending Application Serial No. 10/454,269, filed June 4, 2003; which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/808,626, filed March 14, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,592,549.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 1 as follows:

Endoscopic procedures for treating abnormal pathologies within the alimentary canal system and biliary tree (including the biliary, hepatic, and pancreatic ducts) are increasing in number. The endoscope provides access to the general area of a desired duct using direct visualization. However, the duct itself must be navigated using a catheter in conjunction with a guidewire under fluoroscopy. A wide variety of catheters are known for treatment of such targeted anatomical regions. Examples of biliary catheters are disclosed in U.S. Patent Number 5,921,971 to Agro Argo et al. and PCT International Publication No. 00/69498 to De Toledo et al., the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 1 as follows:

Agro Argo et al. '971 discloses a catheter for use in biliary procedures, wherein the catheter includes a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end. A guidewire lumen extends through the shaft from a proximal guidewire port located proximal of the distal end of the shaft, to a distal guidewire port located at the distal end of the shaft. The shaft may also include a slot or channel extending from a proximal end of the shaft to the proximal guidewire port. Catheters incorporating such a guidewire opening and channel are often referred to as rapid exchange or single operator exchange type biliary catheters.